

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 12, 1887, with transcript

Letters from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. AuntieMiss AdamsGrandmamaAuntiePapa Washington, D. C. April 12, 1887. My dear Alec:

It was a great relief to learn through your telegrams that Mamma was all right. I telegraphed to you at Phila. so unwilling was I to wait for news, but the telegram did not get there until the train had passed. I have hardly got over the excitement yet, I had no idea at the time that I was much excited, but as we walked back to my amazement I nearly had a fit of hysterics being hardly able to stand or keep from laughing and crying. Mary said the babies shrieked too and poor little Gracie confided to her that she was crying because Grandmamma did not kiss her. I took the children to see the Easter egg rolling at the White House grounds and into the East Room where I was completely shocked out of any republican notions I might have had as to the beauty of allowing the public free access to the Chief Magistrate's house. I thought it simply abominable the free and easy way the people went lounging in and out of the rooms, sitting on the chairs, the window sills, etc., and making themselves generally at home without any idea of the importance of the place, any reverence for it as being the abode of the head of a great and mighty people. How can we expect foreigners to be impressed with the dignity of the Presidential office if we seem to have none! The children took dinner with 2 us and we with Papa as we hadn't any water to cook ours. We have plenty now, but in consequence of a hint in the papers that there was another break in the pipes have filled the tubs and every spare pitcher to overflowing. Now of course there won't be any.

Today I ordered the cards for your reception for Thursday the 21st, on the strength of a note from Prof. Baird saying he would consult the committee, but thought that day would be the one, Papa told me to. Elsie is horseback riding now, Daisy reading by me, she

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coughs considerably but not badly. I suppose the extreme heat yesterday was against her. I am troubled about Dr. Radcliffe, can't we do anything for him? I have had Mrs. Sears send him over dainty morsels occasionally and today got him a steamer chair that he may sit out under his trees watching his children. Mr. Fitch declined my offer of a spare room, but paid me the compliment of considering it for a day before he decided that he would not need it.

I can't find any pretty trays here for the children to give Grace, ask Mamma if she can too get me one or better ask Miss Adams to go with you to get one I have perfect confidence in her taste. I hope you will have a real good time tomorrow and do me proud with much love to my Mother and Grace and a little tiny bit for yourself.

Your, M.